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AP-NORC poll details rift between lay Catholics and bishops

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

The hardline stances of many conservative Catholic bishops in the U.S. are not shared by a majority of lay Catholics. Most of them say abortion should be legal, favor greater inclusion of LGBT people, and oppose the denial of Communion for politicians who support abortion rights, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll, conducted in mid-May, shows a clear gap between the prevalent views of American Catholics, and some recent high-profile actions taken by the church's leaders.

For example, leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently called on Catholics nationwide to pray for the U.S. Supreme Court to end the constitutional right to abortion by reversing its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. According to the new poll, 63% of Catholic adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 68% say Roe should be left as is. On May 20, the archbishop



Migrants watching Pope Francis' Mass in Juarez, Mexico, from a levee along the banks of the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas, take part in Communion, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.

Associated Press

of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone, announced that he will no longer allow U.S. House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi to receive Communion because of her support for abortion rights. According to the poll, only

31% of lay Catholics agree that politicians supporting abortion rights should be denied Communion, while

66% say they should be allowed access to the sacrament.

Continued on next page

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

Continued from Front

An even larger majority – 77% – said that Catholics who identify as LGBT should be allowed to receive Communion. That contrasts sharply with a policy issued by the Diocese of Marquette, which encompasses Michigan's Upper Peninsula, saying pastors should deny Communion to transgender, gay and nonbinary Catholics "unless the person has repented." Natalia Imperatori-Lee, a professor of religious studies at Manhattan College, said the rift between rank-and-file Catholics and the bishops "reveals a breakdown in communication and trust -- shepherds who are far removed from the sheep."

"This is a precarious time for the U.S. Catholic church," she added in an email. "U.S. Catholics are, on the whole, accustomed to living and working in a pluralistic society and this poll reinforces the notion that they want the public square to remain pluralistic, free from coercion, and oriented toward care for the vulnerable populations among us."

The Rev. Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said the poll results didn't surprise him, and underscored a need for anti-abortion clergy and activists to redouble efforts to change people's positions. "For us working on pro-life issues, these kinds of polls are like a summons," he said. "You've got to be doing your work -- maybe you've got to do it better."

As for conservative bishops, "their awareness of the gaps that the polling reveals is precisely one of the reasons they feel the need to speak up," Pavone said.



Caroline McDonald, left, a student at Georgetown University, Lauren Morrissey, with Catholics for Choice, and Pamela Huber, of Washington, join an abortion-rights rally outside the Supreme Court, Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, as arguments are set to begin about abortion by the court, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

"They are striving to exercise the role outlined for them in Scripture, namely, to patiently and persistently teach the faith, whether convenient or inconvenient, to clear up confusion."

Beyond the bishops/laity rift, the poll highlighted other challenges facing the church, which is the largest denomination in the U.S. For example, 68% of Catholics reported attending religious services once a month or less. Compared to five years ago, 37% said they were now attending less often; 14% said they were attending more often.

Over that five-year span, 26% percent of Catholics said their opinion of the Catholic church had worsened, while 17% said their opinion had improved. Most said their opinion hadn't changed.

More than two-thirds of U.S. Catholics disagree with church policies that bar women from becoming priests. And 65% say the church should allow openly gay men to be ordained.

The poll was conducted just after the leak of a draft Supreme Court majority opinion that would strike down *Roe v. Wade*. The views of U.S. Catholics, as expressed in the poll, were in line with the overall American public, both in regard to supporting abortion's legality and preserving *Roe*.

However, there were sharp differences among major religious groupings. While 63% of Catholics said abortion should be legal in all or most cases, that stance was held by 74% of mainline Protestants and only 25% of evangelical Protestants.

Sharon Barnes of Dallas, who converted to Catholi-

cism as a young adult, appreciates the centuries-old consistency of Catholic doctrine. Yet she differs from the church on some major social issues, including abortion.

"It's a woman's right to decide," said Barnes, 65. "It's something that you have to kind of reconcile yourself, and it's between you and God."

Pedro Gomez, a 55-year-old border patrol agent in Rio Rico, Arizona, is a lifelong Catholic who prays every night and attends church regularly. He understands the need for abortion in cases of rape, incest or saving the life of a mother, but he said he considers the procedure to be the killing of a child.

Gomez was surprised that most U.S. Catholics support some degree of abortion rights.

"There's a lot of gray area

now that was never there in my upbringing," he said. "Maybe they're watering down Catholicism ... Now people are being able to make up their own rules."

Ed Keeley, a 62-year-old public school teacher in Houston, also was raised Catholic. He described abortion as "a hard subject," saying he believes in the sanctity of life but that abortion should be allowed in specific cases, including rape or incest.

He finds it "ridiculous" that a priest would deny Communion to someone because of their views on abortion or politics generally.

Last year, some conservative bishops, including Cordileone, argued publicly that President Joe Biden — a lifelong Catholic — should not receive Communion because of his support for abortion rights. However, Pope Francis conveyed his opposition to such a stance, saying Communion "is not a prize for the perfect."

Cordileone's recent denial of Communion for Pelosi was supported by several of his clerical colleagues, including the archbishops of Denver, Oklahoma City, Portland, Oregon, and Kansas City, Kansas. However, Archbishop Michael Jackels of Dubuque, Iowa, issued a statement describing the action as "misguided."

"As Jesus said, it's the sick people who need a doctor, not the healthy, and he gave us the Eucharist as a healing remedy," Jackels said. "Don't deny the people who need the medicine."

He also contended that abortion was not the only critical "life issue" facing the church. □

Feds: Capitol Police officer indicted on civil rights charge

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Capitol Police officer was indicted on federal civil rights charges after he was involved in an unauthorized high-speed chase, crashed into a motorcycle and then tried to cover it up, prosecutors said Friday. The officer, Thomas Smith, was supposed to be check-

ing on the homes of members of Congress in Georgetown around 11:30 p.m. on June 20, 2020, when he started pursuing two motorcycles. Prosecutors say Smith "followed closely behind these vehicles at a high rate of speed" before he swerved his marked patrol car into one of the motorcycles, sending the

driver flying into the air. U.S. Capitol Police policy prohibits officers from pursuits outside of the grounds of the Capitol without permission from a supervisor. Smith did not seek any approval and did not alert dispatchers that he was involved in a chase, prosecutors say.

Authorities allege Smith

drove around the man, leaving the victim lying in the roadway, and fled from the scene. Prosecutors say Smith "knowingly drove away from the scene of the crash without rendering aid, alerting medical authorities, and taking any other reasonable steps to obtain help for the victim." He then drove back to

a Capitol Police parking garage, parked the damaged police sedan, falsified a report to say he had started his shift later and then went inside and got keys for another vehicle, prosecutors said.

The Metropolitan Police Department later contacted Capitol Police about the crash. □

Former Trump aide Navarro indicted for defying Jan. 6 panel

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump White House official Peter Navarro was indicted Friday on contempt charges after defying a subpoena from the House panel investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Navarro is former President Donald Trump's second aide to be charged with contempt of Congress for refusing to cooperate with the Jan. 6, 2021, investigation. His arrest comes months after the indictment of former White House adviser Steve Bannon.

Navarro, 72, was charged with one contempt count for failing to appear for a deposition before the House committee and a second charge for failing to produce documents the committee requested.

During an initial court appearance on Friday, Navarro alleged that the Justice Department had committed "prosecutorial misconduct" and said that he was told he could not contact anyone after was approached by an FBI agent at the airport on Friday and put in handcuffs. He said he was arrested while trying to board a flight to Nashville, Tennessee, for a television appearance.

"Who are these people? This is not America," Navarro said. "I was a distinguished public servant for four years!"



Former Trump White House official Peter Navarro speaks to reporters Friday, June 3, 2022, outside of federal court in Washington.

Associated Press

During the hearing, he said the House committee was a "sham committee" and that prosecutors were "playing hardball" and were "despicable."

If convicted, each charge carries a minimum sentence of a month in jail and a maximum of a year behind bars.

The indictment underscores that the Justice Department is continuing to pursue criminal charges against Trump associates who have attempted to impede or stonewall the work of congressional investigators examining the most significant attack on U.S. democracy in decades.

The Justice Department and Attorney General Mer-

rick Garland have faced pressure to move more quickly to decide whether to prosecute other Trump aides who have similarly defied subpoenas from the House panel.

The indictment alleges that Navarro, when summoned to appear before the committee for a deposition, refused to do so and instead told the panel that because Trump had invoked executive privilege, "my hands are tied."

After committee staff told him they believed there were topics he could discuss without raising any executive privilege concerns, Navarro again refused, directing the committee to negotiate directly with

lawyers for Trump, according to the indictment. The committee went ahead with its scheduled deposition on March 2, but Navarro did not attend.

The indictment came days after Navarro revealed in a court filing that he also had been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury this week as part of the Justice Department's sprawling probe into the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"This was a preemptive strike by the prosecution against that lawsuit," Navarro told Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui during his court appearance. "It simply flies in the face of good faith and due process."

Navarro, who was a trade adviser to Trump, said he was served the subpoena by the FBI at his Washington, D.C., home last week. The subpoena was the first known instance of prosecutors seeking testimony from someone who worked in the Trump White House as they investigate the attack. Prosecutors said the indictment was handed down Thursday night.

Navarro made the case in his lawsuit Tuesday that the House select committee investigating the attack is unlawful and therefore a subpoena it issued to him in February is unenforceable under law.

He filed the suit against members of the committee, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the U.S. attorney in Washington, Matthew M. Graves, whose office is now handling the criminal case against him.

In an interview with The Associated Press this week, Navarro said the goal of his lawsuit is much broader than the subpoenas themselves, part of an effort to have "the Supreme Court address a number of issues that have come with the weaponization of Congress' investigatory powers" since Trump entered office. Members of the select committee sought testimony from Navarro about his public efforts to help Trump overturn the 2020 presidential election, including a call trying to persuade state legislators to join their efforts. □

Special Olympics drops vaccine rule after \$27M fine threat

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Special Olympics has dropped a coronavirus vaccine mandate for its games in Orlando after Florida moved to fine the organization \$27.5 million for violating a state law against such rules.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday announced the organization had removed the requirement for its competition in the state, which is scheduled to run June 5 to June 12.

"In Florida, we want all of

them to be able to compete. We do not think it's fair or just to be marginalizing some of these athletes based on a decision that has no bearing on their ability to compete with honor or integrity," DeSantis said at a news conference in Orlando.

The Florida health department notified the Special Olympics of the fine in a letter Thursday that said the organization would be fined \$27.5 million for 5,500 violations of state law for

requiring proof of coronavirus vaccination for attendees or participants.

Florida law bars businesses from requiring documentation of a COVID-19 vaccination. DeSantis has strongly opposed vaccine mandates and other virus policies endorsed by the federal government.

In a statement on its website, the Special Olympics said people who were registered but unable to participate because of the mandate can now attend. □



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at Miami's Freedom Tower, on May 9, 2022.

Associated Press

Indiana court strikes down emergency law fought by governor

By **TOM DAVIES** and **RICK CALLAHAN**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Supreme Court on Friday threw out a law that gave state legislators increased power to intervene during public health emergencies, agreeing with arguments from Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb that the move violated the state constitution.

The court's unanimous decision settles a legal fight that began more than a year ago when Holcomb sued over a law that was a response to his efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new law gave legislative leaders authority to call the General Assembly into an "emergency session" if the governor declares a statewide emergency. The GOP-dominated Legislature approved it over Holcomb's veto.

Holcomb's lawyers contended that the state constitution allows only the governor to call the Legislature into meetings for consideration of new laws outside of its annual sessions that begin in early January and adjourn by the end of April. Chief Justice Loretta Rush



Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb speaks during a news conference on Sept. 27, 2021, in Indianapolis. Associated Press

agreed, writing for the five-justice court that Holcomb's attorneys had "satisfied the high burden required to establish that the law is unconstitutional."

"Under our Constitution, the General Assembly simply cannot do what the challenged law permits absent a constitutional amendment," Rush added.

Holcomb said in a statement that the battle over the law had raised "impor-

tant procedural, statutory and Constitutional questions that only the courts could answer."

"Today, the Indiana Supreme Court has provided clarity and finality on these important issues," he said.

The high court's ruling came after a Marion County judge sided with the Legislature in October.

Legislative leaders never tried to convene an emergency session under the

law. Holcomb first issued a public health emergency in response to the pandemic on March 6, 2020, and terminated it this March. He had issued 23 monthly extensions, drawing the ire of many conservatives even though any mask mandates or business restrictions ended in spring 2021. Under the law, it would be up to the Legislative Council — made up of eight senators and eight

House members — to call an "emergency session" if it determined that the governor had declared a state of emergency with "statewide impact" and that "it is necessary for the General Assembly to address the state of emergency with legislative action."

GOP legislative leaders have maintained that the measure wasn't "anti-governor" and praised Holcomb's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which health officials say has killed more than 23,000 people in the state.

Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said in a statement that he respected the court's ruling. "We'll consider all options moving forward," he said.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray echoed that, saying in a statement: "We will work collaboratively to find a way forward that serves the best interests of the State of Indiana."

Although Friday's ruling found the "emergency session" law to be unconstitutional, Rush wrote that the General Assembly does have "the constitutional authority to set additional sessions." □

Landmark bill to limit cryptomining passes NY Legislature



The Greenidge Generation bitcoin mining facility, in a former coal plant by Seneca Lake in Dresden, New York, is shown in this photo from Nov. 29, 2021.

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York lawmakers have passed a milestone environmental measure designed to tap the brakes on the spread of cryptocurrency mining operations that burn fossil fuels.

Both supporters and opponents say that the closely watched bill, approved early Friday by the state Senate, is the first of its kind in the U.S.

If it becomes law, it would establish a two-year mor-

atorium on new and renewed air permits for fossil fuel power plants used for energy-intensive "proof-of-work" cryptocurrency mining — a term for the computational process that records and secures transactions in bitcoin and similar forms of digital money. Proof-of-work is the blockchain-based algorithm used by bitcoin and some other cryptocurrencies.

Environmentalists are urging Gov. Kathy Hochul to sign the legislation. They say the state is undermining its long-term climate goals by letting cryptomining operations run their own natural gas-burning power plants.

"We cannot be re-powering fossil fuel power plants for the purposes of private gain in New York, especially as we're looking to

move away from fossil fuels entirely," said Liz Moran of Earthjustice.

Dozens of fossil fuel plants in New York could potentially be converted into mining operations, she said.

Cryptocurrency advocates complained that the measure singled out the industry without addressing other fossil fuel use. They argue that the legislation would crimp economic development in New York while other states court the burgeoning field.

"The message from the bill and the embrace of that kind of policy is not a good one for an industry that really can go anywhere," said John Olsen of The Blockchain Association, an industry group.

"We're very hopeful that the governor realizes that

the long-term benefits of embracing this industry and this technology far outweigh a potential pause on prospective future emissions," he added.

Hochul, a Democrat, has said she want to make sure any legislation balances economic and environmental concerns

Cryptocurrency mining requires specialized computers that consume huge amounts of energy. One study calculated that as of November 2018, bitcoin's annual electricity consumption was comparable to Hong Kong's in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Some miners are looking for ways to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels to produce the necessary electricity. □

100 speeches in 100 days of war: Zelenskyy rallies Ukraine

By LYNN BERRY
Associated Press

As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tells it, when Russia invaded 100 days ago, no one expected his country to survive. World leaders advised him to flee.

"But they didn't know us," he said in a late-night video address in April when the war hit its 50th day. "And they didn't know how brave Ukrainians are, how much we value freedom." He could have been speaking about himself. No one knew how a 44-year-old man who had catapulted himself from the world of entertainment into the presidency would respond to an invasion by Russia's giant army.

His response has been forceful — and compellingly public. Zelenskyy has led his country in mounting an unexpectedly fierce resistance. Every night, he rallies Ukrainians to the fight with a video address on social media. There have been 100 so far — one for each day of the war — in nightly reminders that he has not fled, that Ukraine has indeed survived.

His actor-trained voice can be soothing, a deep, confidential almost-whisper as



In this image from video provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks from Kyiv, Ukraine, Feb. 24, 2022.

Associated Press

he looks directly into the camera. Or forceful, rising in moral outrage as he condemns the most recent Russian atrocities and insists that those responsible will be punished.

As the days and weeks have ticked by, his unshaven face has grown a dark beard. He has lost his boyish looks. The puffiness from sleepless nights as Russian troops marched on the capital was replaced by new resolve when the inva-

sion stalled.

From the start of the war he has dressed in various shades of army green, appearing most often in a simple T-shirt. The impression he leaves is clear: He's fresh from the fight and about to get back to it.

A tireless and skilled communicator, Zelenskyy has spoken by video link to the United Nations, British Parliament, U.S. Congress and about two dozen other parliaments around the world,

as well as to the Cannes Film Festival and America's Grammy Awards. Rarely if ever has a man without a tie addressed so many VIPs. He also has given interviews to journalists. He held a news conference in the safety of the Kyiv subway. But his nightly video address has been his favored channel for informing and inspiring his fellow citizens. He often begins with an exuberant greeting to Ukrainians as "the free people of

a brave country" or "the invincible people of our great country." He invariably ends with a defiant "Glory to Ukraine."

He tells them of the world leaders he has spoken with during the day and his efforts to get those leaders to send more and better weapons, to inflict ever more punishing sanctions on Russia.

He speaks to his fellow Ukrainians' anger and pain from the devastation of the country, the untold deaths. "My heart breaks from what Russia is doing to our people," he said on March 16 after Russian bombs killed hundreds sheltering in a theater in Mariupol.

He salutes their courage and says he never gets tired of thanking all those fighting to determine the future of Ukraine. That the country did not fall within days as Russia expected, he said on April 14, was because millions of Ukrainians "made the most important decision of their life — to fight."

He also has tried to reach a Russian audience, as on April 1 when he switched from Ukrainian into Russian to urge Russians to keep their sons away from the war. □

Nigerian police seek abductors of prelate freed after ransom

By CHINEDU ASADU
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's police on Friday said they are still looking for suspects in the abduction of the head of the Methodist Church Nigeria who was freed in exchange for a ransom of 100 million naira (\$240,600).

Samuel Kanu Uche was freed on Monday, a day after he was kidnapped in Abia in southeast Nigeria, the Christian Association of Nigeria said.

Security forces "are still looking out for the suspects" who abducted Uche, police spokesman Geoffrey Ogbonna said.

"When the incident happened, policemen were deployed to that area and up till now, they are still

there," the police spokesman said, adding that the prelate "went to Lagos as soon as he regained his freedom." The cleric described his abduction at a briefing in Lagos this week. "These people came out from the bush," Uche said. "They divided themselves into three places; some people were at the back, some were at the center and there was another group in front to make sure that we didn't run away. They fired shots at our vehicles and they eventually abducted three of us."

Uche was freed after the ransom was paid into an account provided by the kidnappers, he said. Police have denied knowledge of the ransom. Uche criticized the government for the de-

terioration of the country's security that has allowed kidnappers to flourish.

"The primary purpose of government is to secure lives and property. Any government that has failed in that has failed woefully," Uche said after his release. Nigeria's kidnap-for-ransom business has seen more than \$18 million in ransoms paid between 2011 and 2020, according to the Lagos-based SBM intelligence research firm.

Nigeria's federal authorities have been trying to stop the abductions for some time, most recently through legislation to ban ransoms. The country's Senate said it would "turn around not only the security situation in Nigeria but even the economic fortunes of our



A Nigerian policeman provides security at the offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Kano, northern Nigeria Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

country." Earlier this month, federal authorities also barred calls from more than 70 million unregistered phone lines in an attempt to target kid-

nappers and make it difficult for them to contact the families of those held. But kidnappers have found a way to get around that measure, analysts say. □

U.N. says Yemen's warring parties agree to renew truce

By **NOHA ELHENNAWY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The United Nations said Thursday that Yemen's warring parties have agreed to renew a nationwide truce for another two months. The development offered a glimmer of hope for the country, plagued by eight years of civil war though significant obstacles remain to lasting peace.

The cease-fire between Yemen's internationally recognized government and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels initially came into effect on April 2. And though each side at times accused the other of violating the cease-fire, it was the first nationwide truce in the past six years of the conflict in the Arab World's most impoverished nation.

The announcement, which is the outcome of U.N. efforts, came only few hours before the original truce was set to expire later on Thursday.

"The truce represents a significant shift in the trajectory of the war and has been achieved through responsible and courageous decision making by the parties," U.N. Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said in a statement. He said he will mediate between the warring parties to solidify the new truce and to try to eventually reach a political settlement to end the conflict.

President Joe Biden welcomed the development and stressed that ending the war in Yemen has been a priority of his administration. "I urge all parties to move expeditiously towards a comprehensive and inclusive peace process. Our diplomacy will not rest until a permanent settlement is in place," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General



A Yemen Airways plane, the first commercial flight in six years from Yemen's rebel-held capital is greeted with a water spray salute at the Sanaa international airport, part of a fragile truce in the country's grinding civil war, in Sanaa, Yemen, May, 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Antonio Guterres said that "regional and international support will remain critical for the continuation and successful implementation of the truce."

The fighting in Yemen erupted in 2014, when the Houthis descended from their northern enclave and took over the capital of Sanaa, forcing the internationally recognized government to flee into exile in Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in early 2015 to try to restore the government to power. The conflict, which eventually descended into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, has killed over 150,000 people, including over 14,500 civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, pushing millions of Yemenis to the brink of famine.

In his statement, Biden also lauded the Saudi government for what he said re-

flected "courageous leadership" in endorsing and implementing the U.N.-led truce.

His remarks came as overriding U.S. strategic interests in oil and security have recently pushed the administration to rethink the arms-length stance that Biden pledged to take with the Saudis as a candidate for the White House.

Biden's initial position was provoked by the gruesome 2018 killing at the Saudi Consulate in Turkey of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a critic of the de facto Saudi ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Khashoggi was killed by a team of Saudi agents, including individuals who worked for the crown prince's office. His remains have not been found.

The provisions of the original truce included reopening the roads around the

besieged city of Taiz, establishing two commercial flights a week between Sanaa and Jordan and Egypt, and also allowing 18 vessels carrying fuel into the port of Hodeida. Both Sanaa and Hodeida are controlled by the Houthi rebels.

Later Thursday, the Yemeni government's presidential council expressed its support for the U.N. envoy's efforts and reiterated that that Houthis must be prompted to re-open roads around Taiz, according to the state-run SABA news agency.

In a statement, Mahdi al-Mashat, head of the Houthis supreme political council which runs rebel-held areas, said the Houthis decided to "respond positively" to the U.N. envoy's push to renew the truce in order "to alleviate the suffering" of the Yemeni people, and to allow more time for the implementation of all provisions included in the original cease-fire agreement.

In recent weeks, commercial flights have resumed from Sanaa, and fuel shipments have arrived. However, the opening of the roads around Taiz remains a contested issue and both

sides have yet to agree on a framework for lifting the blockade on the key city. Fighting, airstrikes and bombardment have subsided since the truce first started in early April, and the rebels have ceased their cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two pillars of the Saudi-led coalition.

The Norwegian Refugee Council's Yemen director, Erin Hutchinson, expressed hopes that the cease-fire would lead to the reopening of roads so that humanitarian aid can reach those in need and so that more displaced Yemenis could return to their homes.

Many Yemenis and observers point to the fact that fighting has been reduced, but not completely stopped. According to the Norwegian humanitarian group, the original truce resulted in a more than 50% drop in the number of civilian casualties in the first month.

The head of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Nayef al-Hajraf, also welcomed the truce extension, expressing hopes it would be conducive to a comprehensive peace. The Saudi-based GCC representing Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE makes economic policies for the bloc, serving as a Sunni-led Arab counterweight to Shiite power Iran. The European Union's delegation to Yemen welcomed the move in a tweet and underscored the importance of lifting the Taiz blockade.

Earlier, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Yemen's humanitarian needs remain high despite improvements since the truce, with some 19 million expected to face hunger this year, including more than 160,000 who will face famine-like conditions.

"Aid agencies need \$4.28 billion to assist 17.3 million people across the country this year," but only 26% of that amount has been funded, he said, urging donors to pledge money and turn pledges into cash. □

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Immersed in crisis, Peru neglects Amazon's destruction

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Peru has descended into one of the worst political crises in its history and protection of its Amazon rainforest is failing, according to a report published Thursday. Peru is home to the second-largest portion of the Amazon rainforest after Brazil. The country had pledged to stop deforestation by 2021. The South American country has been immersed in political turbulence since 2016. Corruption scandals and disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government have led to intense turnover four presidents in five years. Peru's current President, leftist outsider Pedro Castillo, has already survived two impeachment attempts since he took office in July 2021.

The Peruvian Amazon is massive larger than Ukraine, some 68 million hectares (168 million acres). It holds the headwaters of the Amazon river as well as Manú National Park, one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world. It's a transition zone between the Andes mountains and the rainforest lowlands, rich in microclimates and ecology.

But the Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project



This Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016 photo shows the deforestation of what was once pristine rainforest, caused by gold mining, during a government raid on illegal wildcat mining operations in La Pampa, in Peru's Madre de Dios region.

(MAAP), an initiative of the nonprofit Amazon Conservation Association, reports that deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon has hit six historical highs in the past ten years. The analysis is based on data from the University of Maryland, which has kept records since 2002.

The worst year ever was 2020 when Peru lost around 170,000 hectares (420,000 acres) of Amazon rainforest. Last year, that number

declined, but still ranked as the sixth highest on record. Peruvian official data, which only goes through 2020, agrees.

Corrupt actors who benefit from environmental crime, together with the political crisis have resulted in a lack of government ability to fight environmental crime, the report said. "What's more, the Peruvian government continues to prioritize economic development over the protection

of the Amazon rainforest." The Igarapé Institute commissioned the report from InSight Crime, a non-profit organization focused on investigating crime in Latin America.

As in Brazil's Amazon, cattle ranching and agriculture are the main drivers of deforestation. Agribusiness companies and poor migrants from other parts of Peru seize land illegally. Other illegal activities that harm the forest are gold

mining, logging and coca plantations.

"Agriculture is now firmly established," as the leading driver of deforestation, concentrated in the central and southern Peruvian Amazon, said MAAP director Matt Finer. "This includes both widespread small-scale agriculture as well recent large-scale activities from new Mennonite colonies."

The report, titled The Roots of Environmental Crime in the Peruvian Amazon, identifies three actors behind deforestation: big businesses, such as palm oil companies; entrepreneurial criminal networks, which profit from the trade in timber, land or drugs, and cheap labor poorly paid workers who cut down trees and plant coca crops.

The products of these illegal activities end up in other parts of the world. Most of the gold exports go to Switzerland, the United States, India and Canada. Peru's domestic market absorbs most of the timber; what is exported goes mainly to China. Around 28 percent of Peru's gold production is illegal, according to the InsightCrime investigation, which also estimates that most timber extraction is done without permits. □

Associated Press

Pakistan reports 7th polio case of this year amid outbreak

By **MUNIR AHMED**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani health authorities on Friday confirmed the seventh case of polio so far this year, saying it was registered in the country's former Taliban stronghold in the northwest, a region bordering Afghanistan. The outbreak, after the first polio case of 2022 was registered in the same region in April, is a blow to the Islamic nation's efforts to eradicate the disease, which can cause severe paralysis in children.

All seven cases have been reported in North Waziristan, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where the government has launched an investigating into the outbreak. Parents

in the region often refuse to get their children inoculated.

Pakistan's Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel issued a statement Friday, saying authorities were taking steps to protect the gains made by the government's polio eradication program in recent years. He urged parents to get their children vaccinated.

Pakistan's anti-polio campaigns are regularly marked by violence. Islamic militants often target polio teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

North Waziristan, a former tribal region, was a strong-

hold of the Pakistani Taliban until recently, when the military claimed to have cleared the region of militants following several widescale operations there. However, attacks still persist. Pakistan has for the past 25 years carried out regular inoculation campaigns in which health workers go door-to-door to give polio drops to children. Most of the workers are women, as they can get better access to mothers and children. The anti-polio teams are often escorted by security forces.

So far this year, the government carried out three nationwide anti-polio drives in January, March and in May. During the March campaign, gunmen in



A health worker gives a polio vaccine to a child in a neighborhood of Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, May 23, 2022

Associated Press

northwestern Pakistan shot and killed a female polio worker as she was returning home after a day of vaccinations. And in January,

gunmen shot and killed a police officer providing security for polio vaccination workers, also in the country's northwest. □

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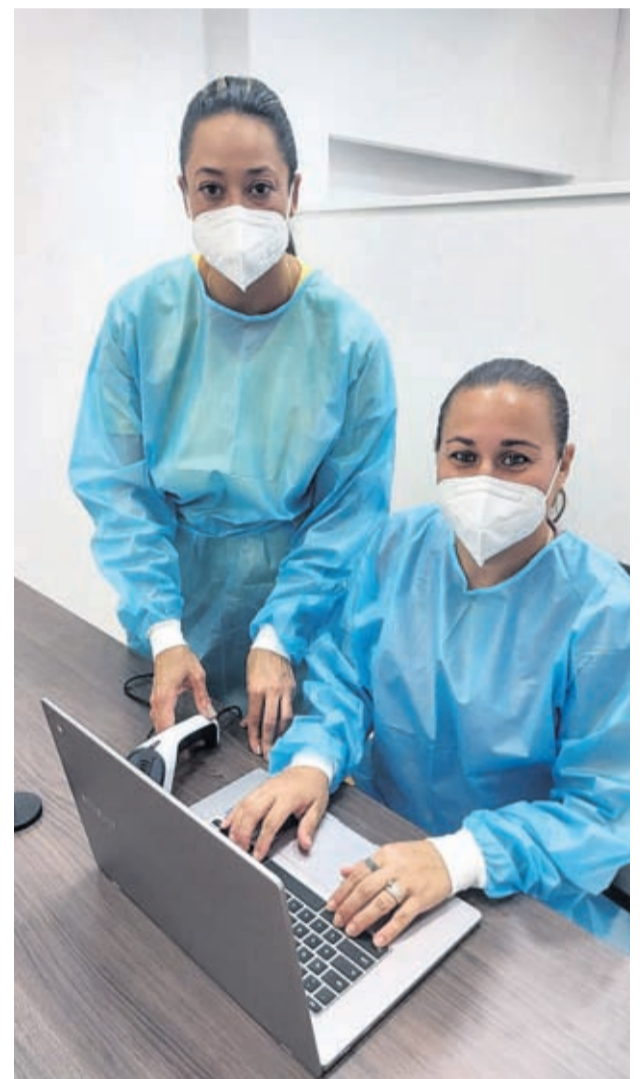


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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved

to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the

Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, as housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced. Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries of-



fers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price. Need a home makeover? Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical cli-

mate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw.

The 4th KLM Aruba Marathon will take place this weekend on the island



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- 2 Team NHL Stenden + Linda: Water
- 3 Team KLM: Water + Powerade
- 4 Team Lion Fish Swim School: Water + Bananas + Raisins
- 5 Team Eagle 297 Runners: Water + Powerade
- 6 Team CUT & CURVE GYM / Amsterdam manor: Water
- 7 Team IBISA = Finish for 21.1KM and for 42.2KM Start second loop: Water + Powerade + Bananas



Foundation Run in the Sun Aruba is the organizing party of the KLM Aruba Marathon. This unique Running event is an official road race, AIMS/ IAAF certified (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races) and is organized under the supervision of the Aruban Athletics Federation. This year there will be 2,500 participants of which 550 are from abroad.

For everyone a suitable distance is available. At the finish each runner will receive a special designed bling-bling shiny Gold medal and of course an unforgettable after-finish celebration party will be waiting on the beach! The beau-

tiful course will show the best of Aruba and will take you from the high-rise hotels to Eagle Beach and up to the famous California Lighthouse. You can expect participants from all around the World during this race. The start and finish of all distances will be the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort .

Saturday:
The 5k race will be held on Saturday June 4th and will start at 5:15 pm.

Sunday:
The 10k, Half Marathon and Marathon will take

place early Sunday. The full Marathon will start at 3:13am. Each runner has a cut off time of 6 hours to complete this race.

The Half Marathon will start at 5:15 am and at 6:15 am they will start with the 10K race.

Be aware that the traffic during race hours will be partially closed. Make sure to take a minute support and cheer the runners aside the road.

We want to wish all the runners good luck with their race and hopefully they can reach a new PR on our Happy Island.☐

Tenants grapple with rent hikes amid overall inflation spike

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At a time when rising gasoline and food prices are already straining Americans' budgets, many apartment tenants are grappling with soaring rents.

The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area in Florida saw overall median rent soar over 50% in April from a year ago, to \$3,045 a month, according to Realtor.com.

The next biggest increase? The central Florida metropolitan area made up of Orlando, Kissimmee and Sanford, where the median rent jumped 32.9% from April last year to \$1,927, the firm said.

Nationally the median rent climbed to \$1,827, an increase of about 17% versus the same month last year, according to Realtor.com, which tracks rental listings in the 50 biggest U.S. metropolitan areas.

"The fact that rents are rising much higher than we've seen historically is a reflection of the unique time that we're in, where the economy is adjusting to a couple of extraordinary years and shifts in preferences," said Danielle Hale, Realtor.com's chief economist.



A view of the New York City skyline, with the Empire State Building in the center, is seen from One World Trade, in New York, June 15, 2021.

National median rent has set new all-time highs for 14 months in a row. At the current pace of increases, it could hit \$2,000 by August, Hale said. Rents as measured by the U.S. consumer price index haven't risen this fast since May 1991.

In a recent survey of renters and landlords by Realtor.com more than 66% of tenants said higher rents were the biggest strain on their

finances, while about 76% noted they're unable to save as much money every month as they did a year ago.

Tenants are likely to see further rent hikes this year. About 72% of the landlords surveyed said they were planning to increase rents within 12 months.

Landlords have the leverage to ask for higher rents because demand is strong.

Years of rising home prices and the recent surge in mortgage rates have left many would-be homebuyers with little choice but to keep renting.

Developers are responding by ramping up apartment construction to the fastest pace in decades.

Newly started construction of apartment buildings climbed to a seasonally adjusted annual rate

of 612,000 units in April, according to the Commerce Department. That's up 42.3% from a year earlier and the fastest seasonally adjusted annual rate since April 1986.

That additional supply should help eventually, but it can take months or years for projects to hit the market, especially given supply chain and labor constraints that have delayed all manner of construction during the pandemic.

While the national homeownership rate is around 65%, there are more renters than homeowners in many large metropolitan areas, such as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, Hale said.

And the burden of sharp rent increases tends to fall mostly on a segment of the population that tends to be younger and less financially flexible.

"The renter population tends to be different than the homeowner population," Hale said. "They tend to be younger, they tend to have less wealth, and also be lower income, generally speaking, which can make it more difficult for them to navigate price increases." □

Associated Press

Japan tech giant Toshiba studying going private as an option

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**

TOKYO (AP) — Toshiba executives said Friday that privatization remains an option for the Japanese technology company, as they defended their efforts to choose the right bidder to restore what they called "a strong Toshiba."

Tokyo-based Toshiba has been trying to win over shareholders to a restructuring plan. The company has not given the nationalities or other details of the potential investor partners, including eight that have recommended that Toshiba Corp. go private.

Toshiba's chairperson, Jerry Black, stressed in an online news conference that how bidders' proposals are evaluated will be transparent to all stakeholders.

The goal is for Toshiba to go through what he called

a "radical transformation" quickly, showing a clear direction and leadership, Black told reporters.

In March, investors rejected a company-backed reform proposal to split Toshiba into two businesses.

Some shareholders, including foreign investment funds and U.S.-based proxy advisory firm Institutional Shareholders Services, opposed the plan. An earlier plan that also was scrapped had called for a three-way split.

Black, who has experience in international consulting and turning around troubled Japanese companies, and Taro Shimada, a former executive at Siemens, have been trying to come up with another plan.

"It's important that we focus our assets to move forward. Many people are saying

Toshiba has weakened," said Shimada, who took over as chief executive three months ago.

The options will be narrowed down after a June 28 general shareholders' meeting, according to Toshiba. The company is seeking shareholders' approval at that meeting for nominations of some outside directors to the board. The selected investment partners will be asked to submit legally binding proposals in July.

Japan Investment Corp., owned partly by the Japanese government, and U.S. investment fund Bain Capital are reportedly among those trying to acquire Toshiba.

Black said Toshiba was working closely with the Japanese government in evaluating its options.



The logo of Toshiba Corp. is seen at a company's building in Kawasaki near Tokyo, on Feb. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

It remains unclear if a suitor needs a Japanese partner to be able to close the deal.

"Japan and the world will need a strong Toshiba," Black told reporters.

Toshiba has been struggling since the Fukushima

nuclear disaster in March 2011. A tsunami sent three reactors into meltdowns, spewing radiation over an area that's still partly a no-go zone. The company is involved in the decommissioning effort, which will take decades. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Long

1 Historian's stories concern

5 Secures, as a boat

DOWN

12 Tax cheat's worry

13 Two-dot character

14 Corduroy feature

15 Important time

16 Purpose in slang

18 Coffee, in slang

19 Impair

21 Parachute pull

22 Cold-sea crustaceans

24 Darkness

25 Workers work for them

29 Area under a wave

30 Buck

32 Outfit

33 Calif. hrs.

34 Draw

35 Chilled

37 They're adored

39 Boom type

40 Insertion sign

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Yesterday's answer

- 11 Get cozy
- 17 Plate
- 20 Brat's
- 21 Caravan
- 23 Stiffly
- 25 High-
- 26 Persua-
- 27 Corrida
- 28 Went to
- 29 Angry
- 31 Takes a
- 33 Chest
- 36 Spy
- 38 Dapper

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A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

BYMNM SNM BLG OMSQT GU
N M U E P M U N G O B Y M
O H T M N H M T G U F H U M : O E T H W
S Q Z W S B T . — S F I M N B
T W Y L M H B C M N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, BUT YOU CAN BUY DONUTS. AND THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING. — UNKNOWN

A woman abroad feels an unwelcome gaze in new film 'Watcher'



This image released by IFC Films shows Maika Monroe in a scene from "Watcher."

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

In the haunting and sophisticated new thriller "Watcher," Maika Monroe plays an American woman who is feeling uneasy in her new hometown of Bucharest. Her character, Julia, sees a man in a high rise across the street who appears to be looking at her in her apartment. At the market, she senses she's being followed. And moments after she sits down in the middle of an empty movie theater, she hears and feels the breath of someone directly behind her.

But no crime has been committed. Julia has not been assaulted or threatened. She's not even sure it's the same man. Nothing has technically happened at all. And yet, she feels a crushing, escalating dread. Like Alex Garland's recent thriller "Men," "Watcher" helps illuminate the hard-to-describe unease that women can feel by simply existing in the world. IFC acquired the film after it debuted to glowing reviews earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival, and it's currently playing in 750 theaters nationwide. "Watcher" is also the feature debut of an exciting new voice: Director Chloe

Okuno, who rewrote the New York-based script to take place in Romania and reworked the character of Julia to make her truer to her own experiences as a woman.

"I think a lot of what I was trying to do was show moments where, as a woman, we sort of have a very different experience in the world than a man. And it's really hard to communicate why that experience can occasionally be really scary," Okuno said. "It's things that are as simple as walking down the street alone at night or sitting in a movie theater when a creepy guy comes and sits down next to you — things that aren't necessarily large, flashy set pieces." In other words, Julia might not be able to satisfactorily explain why she's on edge, but Okuno's lens can make us feel those emotions along with her. Karl Glusman was cast to play the part of Julia's husband, Francis, who is off working most of the day, leaving her to wander the city alone. He tries to be sympathetic at first, but his patience wanes. Julia, to him, seems increasingly hysterical and paranoid — words that are often used to dismiss the concerns of women. "I actually kind of

have a hard time with Francis because he frustrates me so much now," Glusman said. "I've made the same sort of mistakes. It definitely conjured up some memories from my own past relationships where I tried to de-escalate things rather than just listen and really take in all my partner was going through."

Monroe, a mainstay of the independent horror scene since she broke out in "It Follows," actually knew about Okuno long before "Watcher" came her way. She'd seen her American Film Institute thesis film "Slut," an edgy and atmospheric 20-minute horror about an awkward teenage girl and the seemingly nice guy who chats her up at a roller rink, and knew she was one to watch.

"I was a massive fan of Chloe before meeting her. I was obsessed with her short film, way before ever hearing about this script," Monroe said. "She has such a style."

Reading the script, Monroe found she could also relate to Julia. She'd moved to the Dominican Republic when she was younger and knew how alienating and hard it could be in a new country where you don't yet speak the language. She was so inspired by the script, she even made her own look book with photos and style references for Julia, drawing on 1960s New Wave icons like Anna Karina and Catherine Deneuve.

"I just had this vision in my head of what this character looked like," Monroe said. "I was like, 'I'm just going to see if Chloe connects with this.'"

In the end, Monroe ended up having a profound impact on Julia's wardrobe, which is classic and subtly feminine and stands out among Bucharest's imposing architecture. She even brought some of her personal clothes to wear.

"She took something that wasn't actually that specific and made it so specific to her and so stylish," Okuno said. □

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2 monkeypox strains in US suggest possible undetected spread

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Genetic analysis of recent monkeypox cases suggests there are two distinct strains in the U.S., health officials said Friday, raising the possibility that the virus has been circulating undetected for some time.

Many of the U.S. cases were caused by the same strain as recent cases in Europe, but a few samples show a different strain, federal health officials said. Each strain had been seen in U.S. cases last year, before the recent international outbreak was identified.

Analysis from many more patients will be needed to determine how long monkeypox has been circulating in the U.S. and elsewhere, said Jennifer McQuiston of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I think it's certainly possible that there could have been monkeypox cases in the United States that went under the radar previously, but not to any great degree," she told reporters Friday. However, she added, "there could be community level transmission that is happening" in parts of U.S. where the virus has not yet been identified.

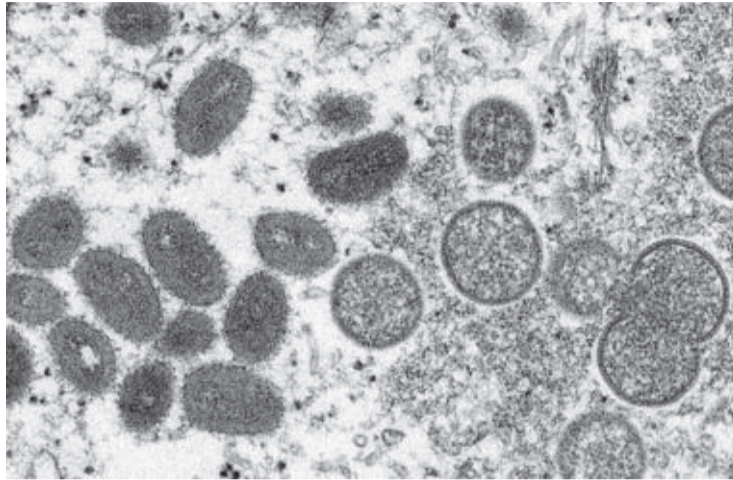
The CDC said it is trying to increase its work on finding infections, and it's likely more cases will be reported.

The findings mean the outbreak likely will be difficult to contain, said Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan.

It's not clear how long infections have been happening, and where. Some infections may have been misdiagnosed as something else.

"We don't really have a good sense of how many cases there are out there," Rasmussen said.

Monkeypox is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals. It does not usually spread easily



This 2003 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows mature, oval-shaped monkeypox virions, left, and spherical immature virions, right, obtained from a sample of human skin associated with the 2003 prairie dog outbreak.

Associated Press

among people. But last month, cases began emerging in Europe and the United States. Many — but not all — of those who contracted the virus had traveled internationally, and health officials in a growing number of countries are investigating. As of Friday, the U.S. had identified at least 20 cases in 11 states. Hundreds of other cases have been found in other countries, many apparently tied to sexual activity at two recent raves in Europe.

So far, many of the reported cases outside Africa have been in men who have sex with men, but health officials stress that anyone can get monkeypox.

One heterosexual woman is among the U.S. cases un-

der investigation, officials said.

The illness typically begins with flu-like symptoms and swelling of the lymph nodes, followed by a rash on the face and body.

No monkeypox deaths have been reported in the U.S. or Europe so far. But that could change if infections start occurring in more vulnerable people, like very young children or people with weakened immune systems, Rasmussen said.

She raised another concern: Even if outbreaks among people are contained, it's possible the virus could take hold in the U.S. rodent population — either through pets or unwelcome rodents in homes.

"It's not out of the question," Rasmussen said. □

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Can Gauff top Swiatek? At Surprise Slam, anything can happen

PARIS (AP) — Even Coco Gauff looked ahead to her French Open final against Iga Swiatek and concluded: "She's definitely the favorite going into the match, on paper."

In an interview last weekend, Swiatek's sports psychologist, Daria Abramowicz, saw the way the bracket was developing and spoke of her client "being — let's not lie — a clear favorite" to leave Court Philippe Chatrier with the trophy on Saturday.

Makes sense, right? Swiatek is ranked No. 1, on a 34-match winning streak and a past champion at the place. Gauff is still just 18, making her the youngest major finalist since 2004, is ranked 23rd, owned a 14-10 record in 2022 until last week and never previously made it beyond the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament.

Then again, Roland Garros, with its fickle red clay and springtime weather, is the Surprise Slam, one with a long history of smiling upon those who arrive low-seeded or inexperienced, unheralded or unknown, yet become unexpected success stories.

"The clay is a surface that gives a little bit more of a chance to everyone," said Francesca Schiavone, who was seeded 17th at the



From the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, top from left; Garbine Muguruza holds the trophy after defeating Serena Williams, Saturday, June 4, 2016; Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko kisses the cup after defeating Romania's Simona Halep, Saturday, June 10, 2017; Romania's Simona Halep kisses the trophy after defeating Sloane Stephens, Saturday, June 9, 2018. Bottom from left: Australia's Ashleigh Barty kisses the trophy after defeating Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic, Saturday, June 8, 2019; Poland's Iga Swiatek kisses the trophy after defeating Sofia Kenin, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020; Barbora Krejčíková kisses the trophy after defeating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Saturday, June 12, 2021. Each of the past six women to win the trophy at Roland Garros had never won a Slam title — some had never won a title anywhere.

Associated Press

2010 French Open when she became, at 29, the oldest woman since 1969 to win her first Grand Slam title. "Every match is 50-50." Put aside one absolute aberration by the name of Rafael Nadal — he of the 111-3 career record and 13 championships on the rust-colored courts made of "terre battue" and headed to another final Sunday after his semifinal opponent, Alexander Zverev, fell and injured himself — and the unpredictability of the French Open truly does seem to apply across the board.

Scan the lists of titlists since tennis' professional era began in 1968, and you'll find more people who collected a first major championship at the French Open, 42 — 21 women, 21 men — than the U.S. Open's 28 (13 women, 15 men), Australian Open's 24 (13 women, 11 men) or Wimbledon's 18 (nine women, nine men). On Saturday, Gauff could become the seventh woman in a row to triumph in Paris without already having won one of the sport's four most prestigious events, following Garbiñe Muguruza (2016), Jelena

Ostapenko (2017), Simona Halep (2018), Ash Barty (2019), Swiatek (2020) and Barbora Krejčíková (2021). "The tournament is smaller, it's more cozy," Halep said, "so I feel like most of the players feel that a Grand Slam is more within reach there." Consider, too, that if Swiatek does win, she would be just the third woman in the past quarter-century to win the French Open as its top seed (the others were Halep, Justine Henin in 2007, and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams in 2013 and 2015). There's

also this: Of those with only one Grand Slam title, more players attained that status at Roland Garros, 21 — 11 women, 10 men — than at any of the other majors. It's happened a total of 12 times at the U.S. Open (six women, six men), 11 at the Australian Open (five women, six men), eight at Wimbledon (four women, four men).

And it's not just the out-of-nowhere champions that make the French Open unique. After all, for all of the Ostapenkos, Albert Costas and Gaston Gaudio in these parts, there have been the Emma Raducanu, Marion Bartoli, Richard Krajicek and Thomas Johansson elsewhere. But it's also the sort of round-by-round uncertainty at Roland Garros that leads to "Who's that?" male runners-up such as Martin Verkerk in 2003 or low-ranked female semifinalists like No. 59 Martina Trevisan this year, No. 85 Tamara Zidansek last year and No. 131 Nadia Podoroska in 2020.

Day 1 this year saw exits for Muguruza and No. 6 Ons Jabeur, who leads the women's tour in clay-court wins this season. On Day 2, Krejčíková lost. On Day 3, four-time major champion and former No. 1 Naomi Osaka departed. □

Former Giro champion Dumoulin to retire at end of season



Netherlands' Tom Dumoulin competes during stage 20 of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 36.2 kilometers (22.5 miles), from Lure to La Planche des Belles Filles, France, on Sept. 19, 2020.

Associated Press

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Former Giro d'Italia champion Tom

Dumoulin announced Friday that he will retire at the end of the season, saying the sacrifices he makes no longer bring the results he wants.

Dumoulin's contract with the Jumbo-Visma team ends at the conclusion of this season. The Dutch cyclist returned to racing last year, six months after taking a break from the sport to consider his future following a burn-out.

The 31-year-old former time-trial world champion has been through a disappointing year and abandoned his most recent race, the Giro.

"I decided that 2022 will be my last year as a profession-

al cyclist," Dumoulin wrote on Instagram. "Many times, and especially this year, it has been a frustrating path, at which my body felt tired and still does feel tired. As soon as the load in training or races gets higher, I suffer fatigue, aches, and injuries instead of improving. The effort in training did often not lead to the desired performances."

Dumoulin, a time-trial specialist who also won stages in all three Grand Tours, claimed the 2017 Giro and finished second in the Tour de France a year later. But he struggled with injuries in recent seasons and said when he announced his break from cycling that he

also was weighed down by the pressure to perform.

He said Friday he believed he could have gotten back to his "full potential on the bike. But that would be a long and patient road, with no guarantees of success. I choose not to take that road, but to quit my active cycling instead and to take a new and unknown path." Dumoulin will now decide with his team on a program for the remainder of the season. He said he aims to compete at the road world championships in Australia later this year, with the hope that he will be able to "get the best out of (himself) in the time trial one last time." □

Joe Girardi fired by Phillies, replaced by Rob Thomson

By DAN GELSTON

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Girardi managed a Phillies team with the reigning NL MVP, five 2021 All-Stars, a \$224 million payroll that nudged the franchise above the luxury tax and expectations of ending the longest playoff drought in the National League.

Buried deep in the NL East standings, and with a sagging bullpen, defensive deficiencies and slumbering starts from some of their high-priced veterans, Girardi paid the price for Philadelphia's miserable start. He was fired Friday, becoming the first major league manager to lose his job this season after failing to turn a team with a record payroll into a playoff contender.

Bench coach Rob Thomson was named interim manager.

Expected to contend for the NL East title, the Phillies are 22-29 and 12 games behind the first-place New York Mets. The Phillies entered Friday 5 1/2 games out of the second NL wild-card spot.

"Oh, I think we can make the playoffs. I think we're in a position where we can battle back to do that. I do believe that," president of



Philadelphia Phillies' Joe Girardi walks to the dugout during a baseball game, Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said.

Girardi's first year with Philadelphia was the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. The Phillies went 82-80 last year and he ends his tenure with a 132-141 record. Girardi managed the New York Yankees from 2008-17 and the Florida Marlins in 2006.

The Phillies have lost 12 of 17 games heading into the opener of Friday's three-game series against the Los Angeles Angels.

"We underperformed and that falls on me. This is what happens," Girardi told SiriusXM's MLB Network Radio. "I think there's more talent in that room than the way we have played."

The Phillies still boast NL MVP Bryce Harper and NL Cy Young Award runner-up Zack Wheeler, Aaron Nola, All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto and free-agent sluggers Nick Castellanos and Kyle Schwarber. Yet Philadelphia hasn't made the playoffs since 2011, hasn't

won the World Series since 2008 and has watched fan interest plummet through a decade-plus of mediocre baseball.

"It's not something that can't be fixed and changed," Dombrowski said. "I think we already started some of those changes this winter time when we made some changes within our system, our organization, a lot of changes, but those things don't show up overnight." Harper has been plagued most of the season with

right forearm and elbow soreness and was forced to give up right field and play designated hitter. Second baseman Jean Segura is out for up to three months with a fractured right index finger. The Phillies are 12-15 at home and are 4-10 in one-run games. They are 3-7 over their last 10 games. "I think realistically we should have been 7-3. Well, that's going to fall on me because we weren't," Girardi said. "I just pray that they get better and that they get to the playoffs." The lowlight was a May 5 loss at home to the New York Mets when they blew a six-run deficit in the ninth inning and lost 8-7. The Mets had lost the previous 330 times they trailed by six runs in the ninth.

"I think there's a number of reasons we didn't win. We gave too many extra outs that cost us four or five games, maybe even more," Girardi said.

Girardi replaced Yankees manager Joe Torre after the 2007 season and spent a decade in pinstripes. Girardi led New York to its 27th World Series title, beating the Phillies in six games in 2009, and his 910 wins were sixth most in team history. □

Broadcaster Kaat uses offensive nickname for Yankees' Cortes

DETROIT (AP) — Minnesota Twins broadcaster Jim Kaat referred to New York Yankees left-hander Nestor Cortes as "Nestor the Molester" during a broadcast Thursday, the second offensive remark in the past year by the 83-year-old Hall of Fame pitcher while calling a game.

As Minnesota's Chris Archer struck out Detroit star Miguel Cabrera, Kaat began to explain that Cortes had become one of his favorite pitchers during a breakout season with New York.

"Nestor the Molester, Nestor Cortes," Kaat said. "Angles and different speeds. He's a pitcher." Twins vice president of communications and content Dustin Morse spoke

with Kaat after the broadcast about the comment. "Obviously, we take these matters seriously and like in all cases will handle this internally and privately," Morse said.

Kaat planned to contact Cortes directly and speak with the pitcher about the situation.

"Jim meant no ill will," Morse said.

After the Yankees swept a day-night doubleheader from the Los Angeles Angels, Cortes said he had heard about Kaat's comment.

"I'm sure, you know, he didn't really mean it, and people make mistakes, but it didn't offend me at all," Cortes told The Associated Press.

"So, you know, I don't really

have anything more than just that, honestly," he said. Cortes has affectionately become known as "Nasty Nestor" by Yankees fans while going 5-1 with a 1.50 ERA to begin this season. He pitched seven scoreless innings to beat the Angels in the first game.

Kaat, a longtime commentator who has also worked for the Yankees and MLB Network, apologized in October after saying teams should try to "get a 40-acre field full of" players who look like White Sox infielder Yoán Moncada.

His comment about Moncada reminded some viewers of the unfulfilled promise by the U.S. government that freed slaves would receive 40 acres and a mule following the Civil War.



New York Yankees pitcher Nestor Cortes reacts during the fifth inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday, June 2, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

He apologized later in that game between the Astros and White Sox.

"Earlier in the game when Yoán Moncada was at the plate, in an attempt to

compliment the great player that he is, I used a poor choice of words that resulted in an insensitive and hurtful remark," he said. "And I'm sorry for that." □

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